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Message Text

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53
ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 SSO-00 /009 W
---------- 091024
O R 081224Z JAN 75 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1092
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, SF (SCRUGGS, CAROLYN V.)
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN VISA FOR OFFICIAL TRAVELLER

REF: DEPT A-9375
NAIROBI 0155 (NOTAL)

SAG HAS ISSUED NEW VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH DEPT HAS CIRCULATED IN ITS A-9375, 24 DECEMBER. WHILE FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF OUR TRAVELLERS THESE NEW MEASURES WERE MAJOR STEP FORWARD - AND IN FACT RESPONSIVE TO US PRESSURES, THEY WILL PRESENT INCREASED DIFFICULTIES FOR CERTAIN OTHERS.

UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM, WE WERE ABLE TO MAKE "ADMIN ENTRY ARRANGE-MENTS" FOR USG VISITORS. NEW SYSTEM ENDED THIS FACILITY, ALTHOUGH DURING INTERIM FONOFF HAD CONTINUED THESE OLD ARRANGEMENTS. HOWEVER, SAG FONOFF INFORMED US 7 JANUARY THAT THIS PRACTICE WOULD CEASE ENTIRELY AND FORTHWITH. OUR INTERVENTION EXPECIALLY ON BEHALF OF EMERGENCY OFFICIAL TRAVEL RELATED TO OPERATIONAL NEEDS AND MEDICAL EVACUATIONS HAS RESULTED IN TEMPORARY PULL BACK FROM THIS EXTREME POSITION CAUSED FROM PRESSURE ON FONOFF FROM SAG MIN INTERIOR. FONOFF NOW ATTEMPTING DEVELOP WORKABLE COMPROMISE BETWEEN FACILITIES FOR USG TRAVELLERS AND MIN INTERIOR DEMANDS. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, MADE CLEAR DIFFICULTIES THIS PRESENTS FOR OUR PEOPLE.
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PENDING RESOLUTION THIS QUESTION WHICH WILL TAKE SOME TIME, WE WISH, HOWEVER, TO LIMIT OUR REQUESTS FOR "ADMIN ENTRY ARRANGE-MENTS TO MINIMUM CONSISTENT WITH OPERATIONAL EMERGENCIES IN CATEGORIES GIVEN ABOVE. UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT ARGUE THAT SCRUGGS TRAVEL AS REGIONAL LIBRARIAN FALLS IN ANY OF THESE CATEGORIES.

WE WILL BE GLAD TO PROCESS SCRUGGS' VISA UNDER NEW PROCEDURES OUTLINED IN CITED AIRGRAM BUT, REGRETFULLY, WE CANNOT ARRANGE FOR VISA IN TIME FOR HER SCHEDULED DEPARTURE DATE OF 12 JANUARY.

IF SCRUGGS CAN GET TWO PHOTOS TO US ASAP WE WILL PROCESS VISA FORMS ON HER BEHALF AND SEND APPROVED LOOSE LEAF VISA TO AIRPORT FOR ARRIVAL. WE ESTIMATE WE COULD DO THIS WITHIN 24 HOURS OF RECEIPT OF PHOTOS AFTER WHICH WE WOULD TELEGRAPH FACT OF ISSUANCE, EITHER TO NAIROBI OR TO POST SHE IS VISITING.
HURD

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